



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/604,050	06/24/2003	Scott A Moyer	03961	1049
23688	7590	04/01/2004	EXAMINER	
Bruce E. Harang PO BOX 872735 VANCOUVER, WA 98687-2735			STERLING, AMY JO	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3632	
DATE MAILED: 04/01/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/604,050	<b>Applicant(s)</b> MOYER, SCOTT A	
	<b>Examiner</b> Amy J. Sterling	<b>Art Unit</b> 3632	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 6/24/03 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

This is the first Office Action for application number 10/604,050, Simplified Articulating Cup Holder, filed on 6/24/03. Claims 1-13 are pending.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 12 is unclear because it contains an abbreviation TPE which is not descriptive.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3, 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 5988579 to Moner, Jr. et al. and in

Art Unit: 3632

view of United States Patent No. 5344112 to Peterson et al. and further in view of United States Patent No6388793 to Tamburrini et al.

Moner Jr. et al. discloses applicant's basic inventive concept, including a cup holder housing (12) having an opening on one end, a cupholder tray (10), including a body (24), two infinitely adjustable articulated arm units (44, 46) and a hinge (26, 28).

Moner, Jr. et al. does not disclose wherein the hinge is a living hinge. Peterson et al. shows an articulating arm (12) which is infinitely adjustable which is used for holding a cylindrical object, wherein the arm is attached to a body (22) via a living hinge, the hinge used for its resilient properties and simplicity. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made from the teachings of Peterson et al. to have substituted the hinge in Moner, Jr. et al. for the living hinge, in order to simplify the hinge.

Moner, Jr. et al. and Peterson et al. do not disclose that the hinge is molded of a first plastic and over molded of a second plastic which has a spring like closing action or that the device is injection molded.

Tamburrini et al. shows a living hinge (220) wherein the device is injection molded (Col. 2, lines 45-50), the device having a first plastic and a second plastic which has a spring like closing action. (See claims 9, 11 and 12 found in Col. 4, 5 and 6), the second injection molded material used for its resilient properties. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made from the teachings of Tamburrini et al. to have

Art Unit: 3632

made the device of two different materials in order have the living hinge of a resilient material.

Claims 4, 10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 5988579 to Moner, Jr. et al. and in view of United States Patent No. 5344112 to Peterson et al and in view of United States Patent No. 6388793 to Tamburrini et al. as applied to claims 1, 3, 7 and 9 and further in view of United States Patent Publication 2004/0011934 to Czepowicz et al.

Moner, Jr. et al, Peterson et al., and Tamburrini et al. show the basic inventive concept with the exception that it does not teach that the device is made from polypropylene.

Czepowicz et al. shows a container holding device which is made of polypropylene which is generally used in injection molding for its viscous properties. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made from the teachings of Czepowicz et al. to have made the device of polypropylene for its viscous properties.

Claims 5, 6, 11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 5988579 to Moner, Jr. et al. and in view of United States Patent No. 5344112 to Peterson et al. as applied to claims 1 and 7 and further in view of United States Patent No. 2002/0096613 to Czepowicz.

Art Unit: 3632

Moner, Jr. et al, Peterson et al., and Tamburrini et al. show the basic inventive concept with the exception that it does not teach that the device is made from a thermoplastic elastomer including Santoprene.

Czepowicz et al. shows a container holding device which is made of thermoplastic elastomer including Santoprene (See page 4, 0036) which is generally used in injection molding for its anti-slip properties. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made from the teachings of Czepowicz et al. to have made the device of the thermoplastic Santoprene in order for the device to have anti-slip properties.

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The following show various cup holders and living hinges

2003/0052129 to Fukuo

2004/0016783 to Then et al.

6702241 to Harada

6298526 to Baumdicker et al.

6164604 to Cirino et al.

4034926 to Wegner

4928873 to Johnson

Art Unit: 3632

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Amy J. Sterling at telephone number 703-308-3271. The examiner can normally be reached (M-F 8 a.m.-5:00 p.m.). If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leslie Braun can be reached at 703-308-2156. The fax machine number for the Technology center is 703-872-9306 (formal amendments) or 703-308-3519 (informal amendments/communications).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Technology Center receptionist at 703-308-2168.



AJS

Amy J. Sterling

3/29/04



LESLIE A. BRAUN  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER